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## OH, DEER...

## GUESTS DONATE TO THE CAUSE AT 'ART ON THE PRAIRIE'

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PHOTO OF GUESTS WANDERING THROUGH THE SCULPTURE GARDEN, WHICH INCLUDED A GIANT DEER SCULPTURE BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

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# Chikaming Township Board approves rezoning of former elementary school property

]BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

In a 3-1 vote, members of the Chikaming Township Board approved the rezoning of the property where the former Chikaming elementary School is located at their Thursday, Aug. 8, meeting.

The River Valley School District had entered into a purchase agreement to sell the property to Rob Buono, who presented at a special meeting on turning the former school into a 19-apartment development last week.

Applicant Three Harbert LLC requested to rezone 13742 Three Oaks Road from R-2 Rural Estate to R-3 Multiple Family for the proposed development.

The Planning Commission had approved the proposed project, and the Berrien County Planning Commission had sent a letter in support of it.

Trustee Bill Markse, who sits on the Planning Commission, abstained and trustee Rich Sullivan was the "nay" vote.

Chikaming Township Supervisor David Bunte said that he objected to the project being presented as "affordable housing."

For the past three to four years, the housing issue has been "forefront" at meetings of the Berrien County Planning Commission, the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, the Strategic Leadership Council, the Best Practices Committee and the Southwest Michigan Chamber of Commerce.

Bunte added that an "extremely extensive housing analysis" is updated annually to "review what the deficiencies are" countywide.

Analyzing the data reveals there are "multiple levels of housing needs, not only in Chikaming but across the county."

"We, at this point in time, are not accommodating low income housing with this one individual project - if we were to pass this rezoning, this is only accommodating a small segment of a workforce that could afford the rents that are being proposed," Bunte said.

Buono had said that the smaller units could be just under $1,000 a month and some of the other ones may go up to $1,800 a month.

Bunte added that the existing proposal is the best use of the property: It'll be a reinvestment in the current facility and will not really change its footprint, it'll be utilizing its current infrastructure and won't be making any changes to the land itself aside from putting in an additional five acre buffer in between the residents on Harbert Road and behind the proposed development at Harbert Prairie.

In addition, there will also be less traffic and density than when it was a school.

Sullivan said that helping those who wouldn't be able to afford to rent in the proposed development should be addressed in the new master plan.

He added that he'd approve the rezoning if there were "conditions," such as there being an on premise manager and their contact information be given to the township's code enforcement/short term rental official; if the contract states that the footprint of the building will stay the same and something about the one year leases and that it'll be "guaranteed" that the buffer is staying.

"I think if we were to entertain a conditional rezoning thing, we would make our community feel a little more secure and maybe not have some fears about what might turn into a party place or whatever," he said.

Bunte said that the "conditional zoning requirements that are by statute are specific to completion of the proposed project" and wouldn't pertain to any management details of how the property would be run.

Attorney Charles Hilmer said that project would be required to go through the entire process again, with the Planning Commission looking at the conditions.

Board members approved Steve Torres as full time safety official.

Police chief Todd Taylor presented officer Jeremiah Mansfield with a "distinguished service award" for his "unwavering dedication, exceptional bravery and outstanding commitment to serving our community of Chikaming Township."

Board members approved the first option with regards to the Harbert Park Design Project scope change to include lighting engineering plans. Bunte said that it's been recommended by Abonmarche that the township includes lighting for pickleball courts and the pathway for the park itself, which was not included in the original scope and design work with the Spark Grant application. He said the first option, which is for $10,000, will include complete specs, wiring and conduit.

Board members approved the Berrien County agreement, which would begin this year, for six years for EagleView Connect Explorer Program for an annual cost of $2,200. Butne said the program is more extensive than what is currently offered with regards to property evaluation and includes details such as 3-D capabilities on all parcels.

**CORRECTION:**
**On page 3 of the Aug. 8 issue of the *New Buffalo Times*, the incorrect result was given for Patty Iazzetto, who ran for the four-year term of New Buffalo Township treasurer against incumbent Jack Rogers: The results were as follows: Iazzetto received 138 votes to Rogers' 128 votes. The *New Buffalo Times* apologizes for this error.**

***Want what happens to you.*** — *Dino N. Fatouros*

# Local Government Meetings

## New Buffalo Times

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City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
**CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS**
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
**NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD**
PETE RAHM, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, JACK ROGERS
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
**NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
**SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY**
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
**NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY**
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
**NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD**
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, BRADLEY BURNER, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP**
**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD**
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, BILL MARSKE
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
**THREE OAKS**
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
**GRAND BEACH**
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday October thru March at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN, JAMES BRACEWELL, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
**MICHIANA**
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

# Town Hall focuses on city's roads

\BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

A map in a slideshow during a Town Hall meeting Wednesday, Aug. 7, showed just how dire the situation has become with regards to the condition of roads in the City of New Buffalo.

"We have some work to do," city manager Darwin Watson said.

Another Town Hall is slated for Sept. 10, followed by the final one on Oct. 15.

Voters will be faced with a proposed road millage, with a rate of an additional 2.25 mills to the current one, on the November ballot.

Watson said Michigan's roads have ranked in the four bottom states until 2017, when the state raised the gas tax 7.3 cents per gallon (to 26.3 cents per gallon).

Vehicle registration fees and gas taxes primarily fund Michigan's roads; however, these taxes are decreasing. Michigan's sales tax on gas does not go to roads. Reconstruction projects being more expensive are also a factor in Michigan's low ranking roads, as well as more money being funneled toward bridge repairs.

In 2021 and 2024, the city reevaluated the roads and conducted a Pavement Surface Evaluation Rating (PASER) study on every street in the city from 1 to 10, with 1 being "horrible" and 10 being "perfect."

The 2020 map showed a lot of "4-3-2-1" roads in the city. Based on the Roadsoft Analysis, New Buffalo would need to spend $1 million per year for the next 10 years on construction and maintenance to get 85% of the roads in the community to a rating of "good," which could be achieved by doing $1 million in work per year or undertaking one large $10 million project over a 12 to 24 month period.

"The problem with that is once you bond or get that kind of money, you're stuck with paying that payment for the next 20-30 years, depending on how much you get," Watson said.

He added that the city would "still be obligated to that debt service" even while other roads are deteriorating.

Per current PASER ratings, 61 percent of city roads are in "poor condition" and 27 percent are in "good condition."

The city receives road funds at the federal, state and local level.

Watson said that MDOT allocates federal funding to local governments based on certain criteria, such as if the road is a major street. The funds then must go against other municipalities that are "begging for that same money."

In the last four years, Watson said that the city hasn't received any of that money.

Michigan's Public Act 51 (PA 51) of 1951, also known as the Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF) Act, is a state law that collects and distributes transportation revenue to fund roads and other transportation projects. MTF receives funds from vehicle registration fees, fuel taxes and federal funds. Watson said that about 20 percent of the funds goes to state agencies and the other 80 percent is divided up amongst all the cities in the state based on road mileage.

The two largest sources of the state's road funding are the state-collected gas tax and the vehicle-registration fee.

Last year, the city received $365,843.17 in state funding, with 80 percent of it going toward personnel and equipment needs.

In 2024, the city's .25 mills, 20-year road millage will produce $70,783.40.

Watson said that the proposed 2.25 tax rate will generate $727,785 on $100,000 homes that are $225 a year and will "go up exponentially based on the value of your home."

Watson said that only one street can be done with the around quarter million dollars that the city receives in LRSB funds.

Referring to the areas on the map indicating the "poor" roads," Watson said that "all of that red is new road territory."

"We've done all the overlays we can do, we've done all the chip sealing we can do," he said.

Responding to a question that was asked, Watson said the city doesn't receive any revenue from adult-use marijuana sales to use toward road repairs due to there being no marijuana institutes in the city limits

Watson said that the plan to repair roads is a "small piece of the total puzzle to do a complete asset management plan to address where we have issues or we have intersections of infrastructure and road."

"For us to be fiscally responsible and fiduciarily held accountable, we're not going to do a paved road over some bad infrastructure," Watson said.

***The political machine triumphs because it is a united minority acting against a divided majority.***
*— Will Durant*

# Man adding to history of high speed pursuits

A man once captured outside Galien during a chase is in trouble again on allegations of fleeing law enforcement.

Travis Hatchel, 38, is accused of fleeing in his vehicle from a traffic stop on August 8 at 10th and J streets in La Porte.

La Porte Police said he disregarded stop signs and drove left of center throughout the motor vehicle pursuit, which ended several minutes later in the 1300 block of Federal Ave.

He bailed out of the vehicle but left the automatic transmission in drive, causing the unoccupied car to travel into and damage a fence, police said.

Eventually, police said Hatchel was taken into custody during a foot pursuit.

According to court records, Hatchel served 129 days in the La Porte County Jail for a chase stemming from an attempted traffic stop in March of 2021 from the Michigan City area.

The La Porte man crossed into Michigan and ventured down several roads near Three Oaks before veering into a field north of U.S. 12 and west of Hampton Road near Galien, police said.

Officers were still behind him when his vehicle cutting across the field began slowing down in the soft soil.

Police said Hatchel placed the car in reverse and backed into a police vehicle then fled on foot.

He was chased through a water filled ditch until taken to the ground by a K9 dog.

Police said Hatchel was fighting with the dog when grabbed by officers, who took him away in handcuffs.

Court records show Hatchel was wanted on several outstanding warrants in La Porte County at the time for allegedly leading officers on a previous chase and fleeing a motor vehicle crash in 2017.

Hatchel was being held in the La Porte County Jail on $15,000 bond on charges that include resisting law enforcement, which was elevated from a misdemeanor to a felony due to his prior history of leading police on pursuits. — STAN MADDUX

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## FILM GROUP TO SCREEN 'CHINATOWN'

The Harbor Country Film Group will screen and discuss Roman Polanski's 1974 masterpiece "Chinatown" at its Aug. 26 meeting at the New Buffalo Township Library.

The program will begin at 6 p.m., with an introduction by film group leader Eve Moran. Moran will also lead a discussion after the movie.

"'Chinatown' sits securely on the A list movie shelf. This classic noir thriller has all the critical film elements cast in perfect alignment. It involves the viewer in an intricate and absorbing story with superb performances, atmospheric cinematography, smart ending, masterful direction and a melancholy music score. It's fine art masquerading as entertainment," Moran said.

The movie is set in 1930s Los Angeles and stars Jack Nicholson as a private investigator and Faye Dunaway as a mysterious client. The story follows a trail of greed, deceit, trauma and corruption.

Film Group meetings are free and open to all. As always, there will be plenty of free popcorn. The New Buffalo Township Library is located at 33 N. Thompson Street in downtown New Buffalo.

The Harbor Country Film Group is sponsored by the Friends of the New Buffalo Library. — STAFF REPORTS

## THE ACORN SUPPORTS COMMUNITY PROGRAMS WITH GOLF FUNDRAISER

The inaugural Acorn Swing for the Arts will tee off at Briar Leaf Golf Club Thursday, Sept. 5.

The golf outing will raise money for The Acorn Center for the Performing Arts community programs. The Acorn is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Registration is at 11 a.m. (10 a.m. CT). Shotgun start is at noon (11 a.m. CT).

Tickets are available at acornlive.org. Tickets are $150 per golfer. The price includes a $91.50 tax-deductible donation to The Acorn.

A four-person scramble is 18 holes. Register as an individual or get a foursome together.

Registration includes bag drop, cart, swag bag, two drink tickets, lunch, post-outing cash bar with appetizers, putting green, driving range, contests and raffle drawing.

The raffle is in The Acorn Loft reserved overnight for four (based on availability) and balcony tickets for a show that evening. One free round of drinks with a dedicated server is included.

Briar Leaf Golf Club is located at 3233 IN-39 in La Porte, Indiana. — STAFF REPORTS

# SCHOLASTICS

## Ribbon-cutting to showcase elementary kitchen/cafeteria expansion

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

The New Buffalo Area School District is finally seeing the light at the end of the tunnel with regards to the ongoing New Buffalo Elementary School kitchen and cafeteria expansion project.

At the New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education Monday, Aug. 12, meeting, Superintendent Adam Bowen said that the project will be reaching its final stages, with final inspections having been scheduled for this Thursday and Friday. He added it's hoped that there'll be occupancy in the building by Friday afternoon after "all the permits are established for final occupancy." New tables were scheduled to be delivered to the cafeteria on Friday and, next Monday, new training will take place for Patty Iazzetto, food services director, and the staff on the new equipment.

An open house and ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at 5:45 pm. Tuesday, Aug. 27.

"It's very exciting and well worth it," Bowen said.

Board members heard of the resignation of Iazzetto, effective Nov. 19.

In her resignation letter, Iazzetto, who has served as food services director for 22 years, said that "the time has come for me to serve in a new role as New Buffalo Township Treasurer."

"I appreciate the opportunities that were given to me to grow personally and professionally during my time at New Buffalo Area Schools," she said.

Bowen said that the position will be posted shortly.

"It's just a very important job - there's a lot of regulations and rules to follow," he said, adding that he hopes that whoever is hired can work side by side with Iazzetto during the transition period.

Board members approved Megan Smith in the position of social worker, pending background approval. Bowen said that Smith comes to them from Michigan City Area Schools, where she's been working at an elementary school for numerous years.

The employment of Michael Lindley as a mentor/coach/board consultant for 2024-2025 was approved. Lindley will continue helping the district with the Planned Unit Development, Bison Preserve, as well as establishing the New Buffalo Area School Foundation.

Board members approved the Foundation Committee members, Greg Vosberg and Vanessa Thun, with Stephen Donnelly as the alternate member. Bowen said that there will be "some work and a lot of meetings to attend" to establish the foundation.

The NBAS Career and Technical Education Program (Construction Trades) and the district recommended Michigan Merit Curriculum Credit 2024-2025 was approved, with Bowen saying that the credits the district will offer will be geometry and a visual arts one.

Board members approved the Governance Compact, which informs new board members of the rules and regulations of the board.

Board members approved the purchase of the Weather Shield Roof Replacement for the middle/high school flat office and hallway area.

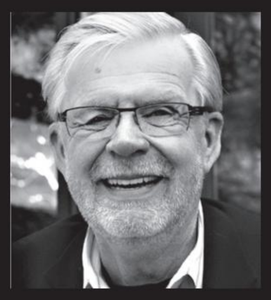
The Pokagon Grant in the amount of $15,000 for 2024-25 bus field trips was approved.

Board members approved Keyston Cooperative, Inc. to supply fuel products for 2024-25.

The July 2024 Thrun Board Policy Updates were approved.

# SPORTS

## From the Bleachers



COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

Remember that song by Randy Newman?

In 1977, the song "Short People" was released, and many vertically challenged humans didn't like it, even though the lyrics were obviously tongue in cheek.

Hearing that song this week brought back a lot of memories.

Because I'm 6'4" it didn't resonate with me on a personal level, but I sure thought it was clever. I bring up this information because Monday, Augsut 19, at the corner of Cleveland Avenue and Glendora Road, at 6:00 p.m. the Southwestern Michigan Chapter of the Eddie Gaedel Society annual meeting will take place.

Gaedel was a little person, standing all of 3'7" and weighing 65 pounds. Bill Veeck hired him to play for the Saint Louis Browns. He had Gaedel pinch hit for the lead off man against the Detroit Tigers with the explicit instructions to spread his legs apart and not swing.

Because of his stance and the tiny strike zone it created, he walked on four straight pitches. As soon as he walked, they pinch ran for him and after the game the Major Leagues voided his contract, so Gaedel's career ended with a perfect on base average of 1.000.

He made the hall of fame as the shortest player ever and the man who hired him, Bill Veeck, made the hall of fame as an executive. Executives like Veeck are rare. We need more like him to continue to make baseball fun.

Just a side note, but Gaedel's uniform number was 1/8.

Don't look now, but as of Sunday night, August 11, the Chicago Cubs are only three games away from making the Playoffs as a wild card team.

This season has been one of the strangest I can remember.

The Cubs played really well in April, but were very ineffective in May through July. I'm almost always optimistic, but this year, I totally gave up on them.

Just lately they have been playing so much better, and if they can keep it up, they have a real shot at the Playoffs.

The White Sox just can't quite get it together. When next season begins, many changes will have taken place.

I drove up to Amboy, Illinois on Saturday, so I could watch the Bears game with old friends. All six of us watched as the Bears dismantle the Buffalo Bills, 33-6.

The Bears appear to be really good, so much better than last year. Caleb Williams, in limited action, looked to be worthy of the very first pick in the draft. The whole team looks improved, and I will honestly be surprised if they don't make the Playoffs. The Lions, Packers, and Vikings all look good, too.

While every season is exciting, this football season is shaping up to be the most exciting in a very long time.

Dr. Seuss said, "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

***Most of the stuff I try in a game, in the moment, I have supreme confidence I'm going to execute it.***
*— Stephen Curry*

# Growth emerging already in newly annexed area

BY STAN MADDUX

The potential for new development in an area recently annexed into La Porte is already bearing fruit.

IST Distribution based in Hammond is planning to build an 81,000 square foot facility along Indiana 39 after the La Porte City Council on August 5 approved a five-year, 50 percent property tax abatement on the land and structure.

The projected cost of constructing and equipping the facility is $24 million.

A dozen new full time employees making an average hourly wage of $34 are expected to be hired to operate the distribution center.

The company will utilize the nearby Chicago South Shore and South Bend Railroad spur already serving Hickman, Williams & Company to bring in bulk plastic pellets and distribute them to customers nationwide.

Hickman, Williams & Company provides materials like coal and pig iron to producers of metal worldwide.

Mayor Tom Dermody credited the work the city has already begun to improve water capacity in the annexed area for the start of what could be significantly more growth.

The city approved a notice of intent to borrow more than $13 million to fund water and waste water upgrades after the hard fought annexation became official in March.

"We are already seeing the positive effects of these investments as companies like IST Distribution are eager to invest in this growth area," he said.

The city annexed the 1,200 acre 39 North Conservancy District, which realized noticeable industrial and residential development after having water and sewer lines installed over 20 years ago.

Eventually, more growth was prohibited once the water lines became too small to serve additional customers.

Unable to afford the improvements, the conservancy district after a majority of property owners expressed support for being annexed went along with the takeover by the deeper pocketed municipality.

About a month ago, tax abatement was granted to Bella Largo Senior Living on 60 assisted living units and 30 memory care units it plans to construct in the annexed area close to the Hampton Inn beside the Indiana Toll Road.

La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership Executive Director Bert Cook said the tax abatement on the land and 48,000 square foot building is also for a five year period.

The projected $16 million facility will employ 50 full time employees once it begins operating possibly next summer.

Cook said at least two other developers with each being industrial and residential have expressed an interest in the expanded northern boundaries of the city.

"I think the potential is really great for the entirety of the 39 North area," he said.

Cook said developers of the senior living facility waited more than a year for the annexation and plans to upgrade the water system to materialize before moving forward on their plans while representatives of the distribution center withheld its intentions for a couple of months.

"Now that the city has agreed to make these improvements, the projects can move forward on a parallel track," he said.

## CHICK-FIL-A HATCHING IN MICHIGAN CITY

Chick-fil-A is headed to Michigan City.

It's going to go at the former Steak 'n Shake location on Franklin St. north of Interstate 94, according to construction plans submitted to the city.

Construction is expected to begin in the near future with completion slated for early in 2025, according to the company.

Company officials also revealed the existing Steak 'n Shake building will be torn down and replaced with a new Chick-fil-A restaurant, serving its signature chicken breast sandwiches and other menu items such as waffle fries, chicken nuggets, kale salads and sweet tea.

The restaurant will also feature indoor and outdoor seating along with a two lane drive-thru, according to company officials.

Chick-fil-A has similar plans at a former Steak 'n Shake location at 1917 Pipestone Road outside Benton Harbor, Michigan.

Company officials said additional information like hours of operation will be released once the new building is further along in the process.

"We look forward to serving new guests delicious food in an environment of genuine hospitality," a Chick-fil-A spokesperson said.

Atlanta-based Chick-fil-A has grown from a regional operation mostly in the south to having about 3,000 locations nationwide. — STAN MADDUX

# 'Silent Film Series' to feature Livia Gazzolo

Gazzolo Productions announces the very special fourth Friday show of the Silent Film Series in collaboration with The Vickers Theater in Three Oaks at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 23.

Livia Gazzolo's most personal offering of the series, this show features an Armenian-Kurdish film by Armenian writer and director Hamo Beknazarian from 1924 titled "Zare" with live musical accompaniment, including Gazzolo on vocals, Pat Leary on piano, Jeff Wheaton on bass, Mohamed Radwan on oud, Eric Novak on flute and Steven Rutledge on percussion introducing the audience to a jazzy interpretation of traditional Kurdish folk music.

Gazzolo is delighted to begin using this combination of film and live music to create an immersive Kurdish experience, wherein she can begin to introduce more people to her beloved culture.

This event weds our love of vintage silent films with live musical accompaniments fronted by the gifted vocalist Gazzolo.

Gazzolo has performed with local and widely renowned pianist David Lahm at Cafe Gulistan, trilling with Corky Siegel at Space in Evanston, and headlining shows in Chicago and internationally in Spain. Through this project, she uses her extensive repertoire to shine a modern light on these forgotten films, elucidating the connectivity of cultures through music while also unveiling biases and historical patterns within the films that are still relevant today.

The Silent Film Series offers a chance to combine your exploration of silent films with your embrace of wildly varied musical accompaniments, including improvisational jazz, traditional Kurdish folk music and Brazilian Tropicalia (to mention a few), paired with a completely new show and score each and every month.

This all started with a collaboration at The Vickers October 2023 (Jean Cocteau's "Blood of A Poet") that was so successful and so much fun they couldn't stop there. One audience member said "my toe was tapping and my head bobbing to this wildly creative music

that was performed live as they played in front of my introduction to the amazing world of silent film! I'd see it again!"

The return of Jean Cocteau's "Blood of a Poet," with live musical accompaniment as Gazzolo and Reynaldo Certain play haunting Brazilian Tropicalia melodies over Cocteau's visual poetry, will take place Sept. 27.

For ticket information and performance details, visit www.vickerstheater.com.

Gazzolo Productions has "taken this series on the road," with performances in Chicago at Dorothy's (2500 W. Chicago Ave.), and The Society for Arts (1112 N. Milwaukee Ave.) in July and April, respectively. Currently, Gazzolo Productions is working on securing funds for their European tour beginning with Germany, Spain and Greece. Contact Livia Gazzolo at gazzoloproductions@gmail.com. — STAFF REPORTS

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Guests mingle under the big white tent

Guests congregate at The Wandering Mule's mobile bar

COL Executive Director Ryan Postema thanks supporters

Janis Kanter welcomes everyone to her home

Swing 33 provided the live entertainment

Guests wander through the sculpture garden

# Guests donate to the cause at 'Art on the Prairie'

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

This year, guests to the annual benefit of Chikaming Open Lands (COL), which was Saturday, Aug. 10, were posed with a challenge.

Janis Kanter, who owns the 13-acre Sawyer property on which the "Art on the Prairie" benefit took place, said that she and her husband, Tom Mccormick, were giving a matching grant up to $50,000 to COL - and she was depending on guests to raise the other $50,000.

Having planted a native prairie, which winds through the property's sculpture garden, to affect small animals, insects and butterflies on their acres of land, the couple is familiar with land preservation.

"Tom and I have gone through a lot of Open Lands properties and we really love what they're doing and that it's for the community and I think that's an amazing thing - there's nobody who's excluded...Everyone can be touched by the work they're doing," she said.

Led by Mike Rivich of Rivich Auction, members of the crowd donated to the cause by lifting their paddles in the air to different financial levels, such as $10,000, $5,000 and $2,500, to raise the desired amount.

COL Executive Director Ryan Postema read what each level could provide for the local land conservancy: the hiring of a seasonal field technician, installing a pollinator garden in Chris Thompson Memorial Preserve and the building and installation of a new boardwalk in a preserve.

Guests also bid on silent auction items, which were donated by a variety of local businesses and organizations.

Chris Pfauser, a member of the COL Board of Directors, said that he and his husband, Rob Gow, said it was by living adjacent to the Galien River Marsh that they became engaged with COL, which manages a portion of the marsh.

Over the years, they've worked on their land - peeling back the honeysuckle and vines that were taking over it before moving into the prairie, the wetlands and the marsh area that were all adjacent to their land.

"We joined with neighbors to get rid of some of the invasive species out there and we made sure that the marsh could thrive and the animals, the wildlife and the natural vegetation that we expected to be there could thrive," Pfauser said.

Soon, they wanted to expand their reach beyond that two to three acres of the 400 acres of marsh.

"COL does coordination and support for all of that 400 acres, along with the two homeowners associations and Berrien County, to make sure we continue to manage that property, we control invasive species out there, we control the insects that aren't supposed to be there and introduce good ones," Pfauser said.

He added that the stewards who manage COL's various properties have their own stories for becoming involved with land preservation.

"What we found is that, overall, COL really, really helps to support all of these properties and makes sure they're going to be kept in perpetuity and we're going to be able to manage them for future generations moving forward," he said.

Gow echoed that the investments supporters make in COL are "truly forever."

"We're going to impact lives and people are going to enjoy these properties off into the future," he said.

The Galien River Marsh is the site of "Kayaks and Brews," which is a partnership between COL and Ghost Isle Brewery in New Buffalo, that takes kayakers on a scenic tour through the marsh.

For more on COL's efforts to preserve the open spaces of southwest Berrien County, visit www.www.chikamingopenlands.org.

Rob Gow and Chris Pfauser, members of the COL Board, speak to supporters

Guests admire the sculptures in the prairie

Guests sign up to win a private dinner at The Historian Cocktail Lounge, one of the raffle items

Jen Thompson, COL development and marketing manager, thanks supporters

THANK YOU
Thank you for your votes and support in the August 6th primary for New Buffalo Township Treasurer.
-Patricia Iazzetto
THIS AD IS PAID FOR BY THE FRIENDS OF PATRICIA IAZZETTO

The quail await their release

The quails are released into the woods

# Goldberry Woods releases Northern Bobwhite Quail into the wild

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

For the fourth year, Goldberry Woods Bed and Breakfast in Union Pier released a batch of newly hatched Northern Bobwhite Quails into the surrounding wide, green forest.

Julie Haberichter, owner/innkeeper at Goldberry, said that they successfully hatched 150 quail and kept 15 as future egg layers, so that 135 quail were released Thursday, Aug. 8.

"We have a pen with pet quail and we keep them year round - we collect their eggs and we keep them safe in a pen, we don't let them free range because they don't come back, they're really quite wild," she said.

Haberichter said that the Northern Bobwhite Quail, which is native to the area, can no longer be found in southwest Michigan because they've been "over hunted" by domestic house cats and hunters and have experienced a loss of habitat.

The quail need both woodland and prairie to thrive, both of which are in short supply in the area. As a result, Goldberry is planting a lot of tall prairie to support the quail. Haberichter added that it'll also be a monarch weigh station, so there'll also be milkweed and pollinator plants planted there.

Haberichter, whose family has been affected by tick borne illness, said that the "explosion" in the tick population and illness in the area could be attributed to the disappearance of the quail.

"They're incredible tick eaters - they eat their weight in ticks every day," she said.

In addition to collecting the eggs from Goldberry's own quail population, Haberichter said they also order eggs from a hatchery every couple of years to change the gene pool and ensure that they're "not only releasing the same babies."

"So it's a whole brooding program: We keep the quail, collect the eggs and hatch them and release them but we do also sometimes order extra eggs from different hatcheries, so there's more genetic diversity," she said.

Another batch of quail will be released in the next couple of weeks, which will be followed by another one from a batch that's about to be incubated.

Eggs that are laid by the quail are collected and stored in a cool place for 10 days before being moved into the incubator, where they start hatching after 23 days. Haberichter said that there's usually a 60 percent hatch rate, with the best they've ever had being 80 percent.

Haberichter said the brooder is warm and light, as the quail are "very fragile and tiny" when they're first born.

Next stop for the quail is a 6-foot high release pen outside.

The ones that were released Aug. 8 were about nine weeks old.

After their release, the quail usually stick around for about a month. Sometimes, Haberichter said they'll get calls from Sawyer of a quail sighting.

"They will be 17 sitting on the front porch of one of the cottages and they'll just be hanging on and as time goes by, they start spreading out more and more," she said, adding that they usually head north.

# LA PORTE ADOPTS TOUGHER RESTRICTIONS ON SMOKE, VAPE SHOPS

The La Porte City Council expressing a desire to protect children has made it more difficult for any new smoke and vape shops from opening.

A recently adopted ordinance presented by Councilwoman Lauren Huffman requires any new smoke and vape shops be approved by the city's Board of Zoning Appeals.

Previously, Huffman said smoke and vape shops wanting to open in the city were restricted only by a state law mandating they be no closer than 1,000 feet from a school zone.

The measure approved unanimously by the city council on April 5 adds a 500 foot restriction from a daycare operation, park, church or anywhere else children typically gather.

Huffman said it was "incredibly important" for her to limit the exposure of establishments she feels are a source of temptation for children just by their presence.

"Hopefully, the out of sight out of mind comes into play when it comes to vape and tobacco," she said.

To illustrate the need for the tougher restrictions, Huffman also cited statistics from the Indiana Department of Education, which show the percentage of high school children in the state vaping at least once every 30 days is close to double digits.

"9.2 percent doesn't sound like a lot but 9.2 percent of 360,000 is a lot of kids," she said.

The restrictions do not apply to any existing stores or new gas stations that might offer such products, officials said.

Mayor Tom Dermody said he believes there are enough stores already offering such products in the city to satisfy consumer demand.

"It's not like we're looking for our next one," he said.

State law prohibits the sale of vape and tobacco products to anyone under 21.

However, Dermody said minors locally are still getting their hands on the devices through other means like black market sellers conducting exchanges from their vehicles.

"High school kids can text and have it delivered to their doors. I've seen it first hand," he said.

Dermody also said he hopes the ordinance will help curtail the number of vaping devices regularly found in bathrooms at the high school and alarms consistently set off by detectors in bathrooms from use of those instruments during class breaks.

"We know we have a problem," he said.

Huffman said another reason she presented the ordinance was to prevent a smoke or vape shop from opening downtown to keep it family friendly, particularly during major public happenings.

"We have a lot of parades. We have a lot of family events and things that go on where we have a lot of children and teenagers," she said.

Since passage of the ordinance, La Porte Code Enforcement Director Jeff Batchelor said he's been visiting existing smoke and vape shops to verify they all have the necessary operating permits.

If not, Batchelor said a violator could be shutdown.

"If you're legitimate and doing what you're supposed to do we don't have a problem with it. But, if you are going to try and work your way around the code we don't want you in the city. We want you to do things the right way," he said. — STAN MADDUX

# 2024 Berrien County Youth Fair

## August 12-17 Grandstand Entertainment

**Call 1-269-473-1500 for Grandstand tiCkets!**

Berrien County Youth Fair
Explore Planet Fair

August 11th
Street Legal Pickup Truck and Tractor Pull
5 p.m.
Grandstand
Tickets: $15
Presented by Dale Seyfred Pioneer Seed & Twin Map Farm Market-Galien

### Monday, August 12th

Sponsored by:
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**NTPA Regional Truck & Tractor Pull**

featuring 2WD Trucks, Super Farm, Hot Farm and Limited Light Superstock Tractors
Show Time: 7 p.m.
Ticket Price: $17, $15, $10
Reserved or General Admission Seating
Presented by:
Keystone COOPERATIVE™

### Tuesday, August 13th

Sponsored by:
Honor CREDIT UNION

TUESDAY IS KIDS DAY
All children through high school get in the gates FREE!
CIRCUS CONTINENTAL
Show Times: 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.
**Free Admission!**

### Wednesday, August 14th

Sponsored by:
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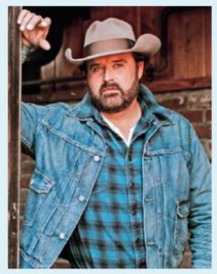

RANDY HOUSER RH
Show Time: 7 p.m.
Ticket Prices: $60, $50, $32, $18
Reserved Seating
Presented by:
United FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

### Thursday, August 15th

Sponsored by:
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COOK PLANT

Show Time: 7 p.m.
Ticket Price: $25, $20, $15
Reserved Seating

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THE MUSIC OF ABBA

### Friday, August 16th

Sponsored by:
Keystone COOPERATIVE™

**DEMOLITION DERBY!**
Show Time: 8 p.m.
Tickets: $15, Reserved Seating
Produced by: *TNT Demolition Derby Michigan*
Presented by:
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### Saturday, August 17th

Sponsored by:
GreenStone FARM CREDIT SERVICES

**Bull-mania!**

Show Time: 7 p.m.
Tickets: $15 Reserved Seating

Produced by: *Super Kicker Rodeo Production*

Presented by:
EST'D 1960 RURAL KING AMERICA'S FARM & HOME STORE

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**Rides Area:**
11 a.m. to Closing (Tuesday-Saturday)
**Youth Exhibit Buildings:** 10 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
**Fair Office:** 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. (Mon.-Sat.)
**Food Vendors:** 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. (Mon.-Sat.
*A few are open for breakfast*

**Commercial Exhibits:**
11 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. (Monday-Friday)
11 a.m. to 11 p.m. (Saturday)

**Trophy Room:**
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9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Sunday, Aug. 18)

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**Youth Fair Gate Admission**
Adults, Day Pass: $8
Children (5-12), Day Pass: $5
65 & Over, Day Pass: $5
Military Day Pass: $5
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Child Season Pass: $12
65 & Over Season Pass: $14
Military Season Pass: $14
---Gates CLOSE at 10 p.m. daily---

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**Tuesday-Saturday**
**$32 during Fair week**

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# OBITUARIES

## JoAnne Liedel Cicchelli
1942-2024

JoAnne Liedel Cicchelli, 81, of Lincoln Park, Chicago, Illinois, died, Friday, August 2, 2024, in the presence of her family.

Her life began October 3, 1942 in Monroe, Michigan, the oldest of two sisters born to Ruth and Clayton Liedel. She married William S. Singer in Florence, Italy, October 12, 1995.

JoAnne was entirely and truly herself: she was an intellectual force to be reckoned with. She enjoyed luxurious travel and watching the sunset in Three Oaks with a watered-down vodka tonic. She loved brunch at Nookies, sopapillas at Tia Sophia's, and the tiramisu at Vecchia Roma. She was at ease holding court at a State Dinner as she was knee-deep in her garden, twigs in her hair, trimming weeds with her garden shears.

Her early life was filled with love and laughter on Godfroy Avenue and at Lake Leelanau, with her parents and younger sister. JoAnne attended Monroe High School and graduated from Michigan State University. A devout Spartan throughout her life, you could always find a green helmet bumper sticker adorning her car.

While in college JoAnne married her first husband Martin Cicchelli. After graduation, the couple lived briefly in Corning, New York before moving to Chicago, Illinois in 1968. There, they welcomed their daughter Elizabeth, followed four years later by their second daughter Katherine.

In the early 80's JoAnne met former Alderman Bill Singer. Throughout their relationship, JoAnne and Bill built and deepened their friendships and traveled the world. Their shared passion for politics, art, food, beauty, and family were at the core of their many years together.

JoAnne's professional career reflected her life long commitment to education as a vehicle for social change. In her early career, she taught 5th grade and then high school history. Years later she returned to the field of education at Prime-Time School Television, a non-profit organization that connected teachers, families, and public television.

Together JoAnne and Bill were deeply involved in the community at Francis W. Parker school in the heart of Lincoln Park, where their daughters, granddaughters, and nephews all attended. She also served on the Board of Christopher House, a social service agency helping families from birth through high school. When Christopher House founded a K-8 charter several years ago, JoAnne played a key role in launching the middle school, later named The JoAnne Cicchelli Middle School in her honor.

Her commitment to education was matched by her passion for politics. JoAnne first became immersed in the politics of the 43rd Ward, immediately after the 1968 Chicago Democratic Convention in Chicago. She was a precinct worker during mayoral campaigns, strategist, and became the office manager for 43rd Ward Alderman Edwin Eisendrath.

JoAnne was eager to hear from every cab driver, waiter, store clerk and toll booth operator about where they stood on the daily happenings of the world. When she listened, she listened deeply. No matter who you were, to be in JoAnne's orbit was to be known and loved.

Joanne will be greatly missed by family, friends and communities. She is survived by her beloved husband of 29 years, William S. Singer of Chicago, Illinois; two daughters, Elizabeth A. (Robert Buono) Cicchelli of Chicago, Illinois; Katherine E. Cicchelli of Chicago, Illinois; three grandchildren, Grace R. Buono of Chicago, Illinois, Eleanor E. Buono of Chicago, Illinois and Beatrice N. Cicchelli; one sister, Vicki Liedel (Tom) Rosenbluth of Three Oaks, MI; three nephews, Jesse Clayton (Sara Burns) Rosenbluth, Jacob Paul Rosenbluth, Thomas Dylan Rosenbluth; and great-niece Lucy Pepper Rosenbluth.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

The family will observe a private remembrance. Joanne will be laid to rest in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Contributions can be made in Joanne's memory by occasionally taking a moment to listen for her in a bird's song or look for her in trees or flowers. You can also honor her memory by casting a ballot in November.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at www.wagnercares.com.

## Richard W. "Dick" Eggleston
1936-2024

Richard W. "Dick" Eggleston passed away, Wednesday, August 7, 2024, at his home in Otsego.

He was born February 28, 1936, in Three Oaks, the son of Leland and Grace (Lowe) Eggleston.

Dick proudly served his country in the U.S. Army and for many years was a Police Officer for the city of St. Joseph. During his retirement, Dick worked for Pobocik Funeral Home in Three Oaks and Winkel Funeral Home.

In his free time, he enjoyed hunting, and was an avid fisherman. He liked baking and canning, and was known for his bread and strawberry jam.

Dick was a member of Trowbridge Community Church.

On February 28, 1976, in Allegan, he married Nancy Clawson who survives. Also surviving are his granddaughter, Alexandria (Spencer) Miller, a great granddaughter, Sloane Miller and great grandson due in December; sons-in-law, Jim Clum and Richard Bessey and many sisters and brothers-in-law. He was preceded in death by his parents, daughters, Renee Clum and Tracy Bessey; 2 brothers and a close cousin Ronald Cucuro.

According to his wishes cremation has taken place. Contributions in memory of Dick may be made to Wings of Hope Hospice. Messages of condolence may be posted at www.winkelfuneralhome.com.

# HOROSCOPE

## AUGUST 15-21, 2024

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

**ARIES** MARCH 21—APRIL 19

There is a lot of energy coming in this week that could really stir up some drama in your social circle. Channel this energy positively by engaging in sports or other physical activities. Get competitive but don't show boat. The vibe is right for gambling and risk taking too. Fun times ahead.

**TAURUS** APRIL 20—MAY 20

If there are things happening on the home-front or with certain women in your life, now is the time to stand firm. It's okay to tell people how you feel. If things are getting overwhelming, say so. If you are content and want to get closer, that's okay too. Honor your needs, but hold the drama.

**GEMINI** MAY 21—JUNE 21

Get your traveling gear together. This is a great time to take a road trip and try something new. Break away from daily routines and be spontaneous. Reconnect with partners by planning a romantic weekend getaway. Or plan a trip with friends and hit some of the new breweries.

**CANCER** JUNE 22—JULY 22

There may be some setbacks at work this week. The assignment or project that you had hoped to secure or finish, may not come through now. It's important you focus on new projects and ideas. Let go of previous proposals and set your sights on what's new and has future possibilities.

**LEO** JULY 23—AUGUST 22

There is a chance you will be feeling separated from others or that you aren't connecting on a personal level. Take that as a cue to spend some time on your own, doing what you like to do. You may get some disappointing news about your career but it may not have been that profitable anyway.

**VIRGO** AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

If there are things happening in your workplace that are counterproductive, be upfront. This is not the time to cover for coworkers that are not respecting the work or valuing the job. The good news is your homelife is improving and feeling much happier. At home, no work.

**LIBRA** SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

Being in a large group may not be as rewarding as you had hoped this week. You may clash with certain personality types, which could make you wish you had gone out alone or with just your significant other. If you were counting on everyone chipping in to cover costs, that may not happen.

**SCORPIO** OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

There seems to be a separation of sorts or division of property that you will be dealing with this week. If you are taking time away from a stressful relationship, you will be surprised by the amount of relief you experience. If you are dealing with property, you will be well compensated.

**SAGITTARIUS** NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

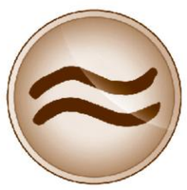
Information and communications could go where you hadn't anticipated this week. There could be issues that you would rather not address or discuss but if the situation calls for clarity, you will handle it. Be totally upfront about your feelings and your ideas at this time.

.

**CAPRICORN** DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

There could be some setbacks financially this week or if you were expecting a big payoff, it may be delayed. This is a temporary issue so, don't get stressed out about it. Take the downtime and relax a little. Let your psychic side play by engaging in some metaphysical activities.

**AQUARIUS** JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



There may be some things happening with partners that need to be dealt with openly and honestly. Don't gloss over issues you have with people. There is a reason you are feeling uncomfortable or unappreciated. It's time to clear the air, especially if finances are involved.

**PISCES** FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

You will be saying goodbye to some workplace drama this week. Whether you get a new manager or new equipment, it will make your work much more enjoyable. There will be more flexibility in scheduling and more comradery amongst coworkers. Changes make for a good week.

***When you encounter a true narcissist, get away as fast as you can.*** — *George M. Krueger*

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## Sudoku

*Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | | 3 | | 1 | | | | 8 |
| | | | | | | | 6 | |
| | | | | | | | | 5 |
| 1 | 5 | | | | 9 | 6 | 8 | 3 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | 2 | | | | | 1 | 9 |
| | 4 | | 9 | | 5 | | | |
| 8 | | | 1 | 2 | | | 5 | |
| | 6 | 5 | | 8 | 3 | | | 2 |

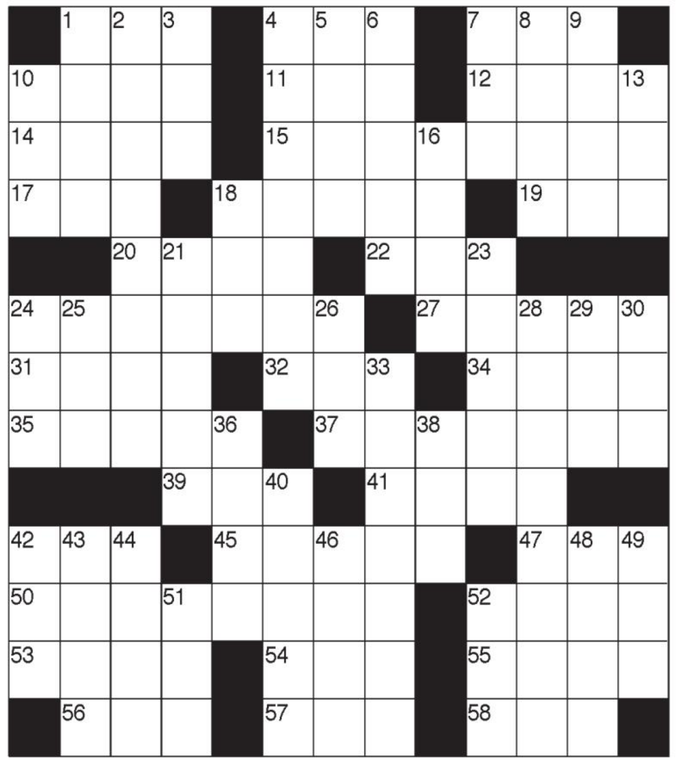
## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**ACROSS**

1 Palestine Liberation Organ. (abbr.)
4 Dance company (abbr.)
7 Chairman (abbr.)
10 Variegated in color
11 Remote
12 Excavate
14 Pilaster
15 Bot (2 words)
17 Exclamation
18 Notes in Guido's scale
19 Shak. contraction
20 Russ. range
22 Equine
24 Mar
27 Hebrew letter
31 Duds
32 Touch lightly
34 Guide
35 Chasm
37 Sugarcane by-product
39 Cereal grain or grass
41 Pharaoh
42 Arrival (abbr.)
45 Ridge
47 Revolutions per minute (abbr.)
50 Regatta (2 words)
52 Nut
53 Shak. villain
54 Videocassette recorder (abbr.)
55 Hung. violinist
56 Dive
57 Poetic contraction
58 Son of Abijah

**DOWN**

1 Metallic sound
2 Coma
3 Harem room
4 Pain
5 Geological epoch
6 Nutlike drupe
7 Certified Public Accountant (abbr.)
8 Employ
9 Turn
10 Birthplace of Henry IV
13 Bobbsey twins
16 Irish fortified place
18 Eastern standard time (abbr.)
21 Rope
23 Muslim prayer
24 As written in music
25 Male swan
26 Habakkuk (abbr.)
28 Fain
29 Laughter sounds
30 Dutch commune
33 Horse's foot part
36 Moselle tributary
38 Right turn
40 Horse-shoeing stall
42 Mother of Hezekia
43 Via
44 Fad
46 Behold! (Lat.)
48 Supplication
49 Disfigure
51 Heavy weight
52 "The Jungle Book" python



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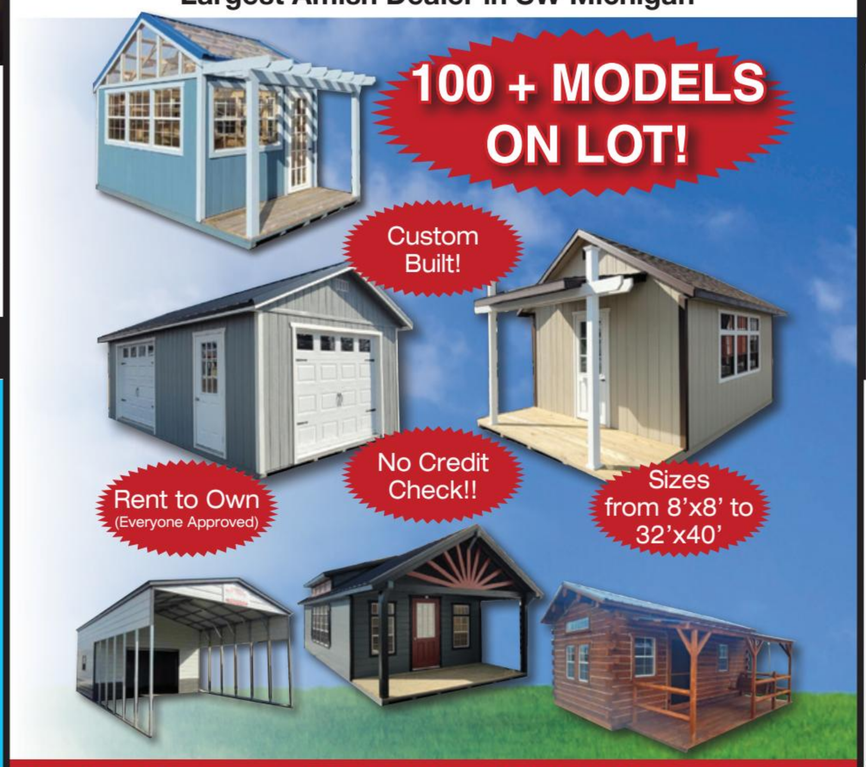

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# Picture leads to litterbug cleaning up his rubbish

Tips generated by a picture of an illegal dumping suspect posted on social media by La Porte County Police quickly led to the man complying with orders to pick up the mess.

"The clean-up is happening and it's concluded," said La Porte County Police Capt. Derek Allen.

The picture was posted Tuesday morning on the Facebook page of the La Porte County Sheriff's Office.

Within a few hours, police based on tips from citizens seeing the picture located the older model pick-up truck in Michigan City and the driver contained in the image.

Allen said the alleged violator, Andre Dockery, 57, was not cited for illegal dumping.

Instead, Allen said the man quickly complied with orders to remove the swimming pool liner and numerous cardboard boxes dumped on private property in the 700 block of Sheridan Ave. on the city's west side.

Allen said the man was also "counseled on his decision making" by the officer discovering his whereabouts.

The dumping occurred about three weeks ago.

In response, Allen said the property owner wanting the trash removed later complained to a sheriff's deputy.

Allen wouldn't disclose how the picture was obtained but it worked to generate tips like other images have in the past to solve crimes.

He hopes the picture and the almost immediate public response to it will discourage others from illegal dumping.

"Littering will not be tolerated," he said.

Allen also gave thanks to the "loyal followers and supporters" of the sheriff's office Facebook page for their consistent response for help in generating leads on cases.

"We routinely do this from time to time and it's been a great success," he said. — STAN MADDUX

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# PET OF THE WEEK

## DALMATIAN

**Dalmatian loves stacking cups, and she really gets into moving them around. They are even more fun if there are treats are hidden in them. She is over two years old, fully vaccinated, and spayed. Dalmatian's favorite snack are lettuce and cucumbers, and she loves to free roam if you are hanging out with her. In her previous home, there was a dog and cat that understood how to be nice to her, but being picked up suddenly is something that she did not prefer. Just be gentle and have calm movements around her, and Dalmatian will be comfortable.**

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# DEATH NOTICES

**THREE OAKS** – Kurt Francis Von Meding, 68, of Harbert, Michigan, passed away on Wednesday, August 7, 2024. Arrangements are pending at Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks.

# New Buffalo band previews space-themed show

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Visitors to this year's Red Arrow Raiders' football games will be plunged into the depths of outer space when they view the halftime shows of the New Buffalo High School Band.

After a grueling week of band camp, the young musicians gave a preview of the performances on New Buffalo High School's multiplex field Friday, Aug. 9.

Space-themed arrangements included "Starships" written by Tom Wallace, the "Space Jam" movie theme, the theme from "Mars," which was originally composed by fGustav Holst and "Counting Stars," which was originally recorded by One Republic.

The fall shows will end with the original "Star Wars" main theme by John Williams.

Band members give a preview of their space-themed halftime show

Members of the New Buffalo High School Band give a preview of fall performances

Ellen Ripley waves banners in the air as part of the color guard

The brass section of the band plays during the fall preview show

Band members give a preview performance on the multiplex field

Ellen Ripley, a member of the color guard, waves banners in the area to the band's music

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